

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers*
and *Petty-Statefmen*, of all Sides.

Saturday, April 22. 1704.

THE impossibility of Relieving the *Camisars*, tho' we were heartily willing to joyn in such an undertaking, seems to me so plain, that I never found any feasible Project laid down for the bringing it to pass.

Those who expected the Confederate Fleet when they went into the *Straights*, should relieve the *Camisars*, and reproath'd our Government for their coming back before it was effected; shew'd their want of Judgment, as well as their want of Manners.

The Mountains of the *Cevennes* being at least 25 Leagues from the Sea-Coast, and the nearest Places on the Coast altogether unfit to receive a Fleet; no Port, no Harbour for the Ships to ride in; no Town or Fort to Land any Forces; 'tis strange to me what those People expected.

The *Marschal de Moutrevel* lay about *Nismes*, and as any one who knows the Situation of the Country will allow, either was, or on the least Alarm, might be Posed with his Army between the *Cevennois* and the Sea, so that whatever force had Attempted their Relief, must at least have been strong enough to have fought the French Army; and allow that Army had been but 12000 Men, all Men know, that

Sir Cloudesly Shovel did not go furnish'd to fight a Land Army of half that Force.

And if not, it remains for these Gentlemen, who expected he should have Reliev'd the *Cevennois*, to prescribe a Method how it had been Practicable, and they that will reflect because Impossibilities are not brought to pass, deserve little Regard from any Man, and none at all in this Paper.

But some Gentlemen, who are very Zealous for this Work, tell us of its being very feasible to relieve them, now the Duke of *Savoy* has broke with the French, by forming a Body of French Refugees and *Vandois* in the Valleys of *Piemont*, to break thro' *Provence*, and force their way into *Langnedoc*; to make this feasible, they Summon together 8000 French Protestants, and at once carry them into *Piemont*, and there join them with 2000 *Vandois*, and to make them very strong, they add 10000 *Engliss*, *German*s, and *Dutch*, to drive all before them.

These Gentlemen might as well have spar'd themselves, and their Readers, all this Contrivance, and have told us in the Gross, that if the Confederates could form an Army in *Piemont*, strong enough to carry all before them, they might March thro' *Provence* and joyn the *Camisars*,

But,

But have these Gentlemen considered where these Men must be had, and what Preparations are necessary to bring such things to pass? had they Calculated the length of the March by Land, from *Holland* into *Piemont*, or the length of the Voyage by Sea; What Time must be spent in the Ordering, Procuring and Executing such a Design? What Notice the French must have to Provide, and what Force they would bring to oppose it? Had they calculated all these things, they wou'd have insisted less on the Easiness of such a Design.

Add to this, That the *Germans* have their hands full on every side, and can very hardly find Supplies for the Defence of their own Borders; that cou'd the *Germans* find ten Thousand Men, there are two Cases in which such a Body of Men would turn to the best Account that ever twice that Force could do before, *Viz.* in *Hungary* to suppress a Formidable Insurrection; or in the *Modenese* to make such a Diversion, as would leave the Duke of *Savoy* at Liberty to carry on his Great Designs; if the *Germans* cannot find Men for those two extraordinary Cases, where should they provide them for this Expedition? So that all our expectation that way must cease, and the *Camisars* cannot be relieved in this manner.

And yet supposing this Army was really gotten together, the Position of the Country, and the Posture of the *French* Affairs are such, that we may, without Arrogance suppose the King of *France*, who never neglects any thing so Material, would at least have found Troops enough to have Disputed the Passage of the *Rosne* with them.

And what Reason can be assign'd, why the *French*, who we find able to make an Offensive War, to Invade and Distress their Neighbours almost on every side shou'd be so deficient in their Conduct, as to leave themselves unguarded in so nice a Part of their own Safety, and while they are Assaulting all the rest of the Confederacy, be unable to Defend themselves here?

As this seems to me a plain Truth, all the Essays of this Nature, seem to be only forming things in the Fancy, which 'tis much easier to propose, than to put in Execution.

After all, it seems to me the *French* themselves have contributed more to the increase and strengthening the *Camisars* by one false step, than all the Confederates either have been able, or are likely to procure; by this I mean, the destroying the Villages and Towns of the *Cevennes* round them.

'Tis true, that from these Towns the *Camisars* had Relief, were continually Shelter'd and Supply'd, and by wasting the Country, the *French* Generals supposed they shou'd, as it were, unharbour them, and deprive them of the Refuge of their Friends; and this was really true, and no doubt, the end was Answered in that particular; but it has had another effect, which whether they foresaw or not, I cannot conclude; and that is, that all the People, who by the Cruelty of the Execution, were made desperate, immediately join'd the *Camisars*, and Increased their Number.

This has had such an Effect that way, that if we may believe our Publick Accounts, their Number is thereby grown from about 6 or 800, to 5 or 6000.

If this be true, the *French* Generals took wrong Measures, in going about to make a People Desperate, who were but wavering before, and if they pursue the same Method, they may chance so at last to increase their Number, that they may be able to do their Work themselves, which I must own, would be the best way.

Some have told us, that abundance of Refugees have, in spite of all the Watchfulness of the Enemy, secretly pass'd from among the *Vaudois* and *Swiss*, and got safe to the *Camisars*, by which means their Number has been very much Increased, and their Spirits in Proportion rais'd.

Be it as it will, it seems Certain their Number is increased, and if it be true, that the *Marschal de Montreuil* is recall'd, and *Marschal Villars* appointed in his Room, with a large addition of Troops, and as some say, 30000 Men to suppress this Rebellion; it is far from being a sign that their Number diminishes.

But however strong they are, or may be, it seems to me the Present Posture of Affairs tells them they must stand upon their own Legs yet another Campaign, which if they can do, as they will doubtless be a
very

very considerable Diversion to the *French*, so the Affairs of *Savoy* must of necessity Influence them, and animate them either to break thro', or to open a way for Supplies.

These Miserable Christians are plac'd in a most unhappy Corner of the *French* Dominions, where Relieving them is incumbered with so many insuperable Difficulties, and it has hitherto been found so impracticable to joyn them with Troops, that on the Contrary the whole Confederacy has hardly been able to send any Message to know their Wants, or to have a true Account of their Circumstances.

From hence I think the present Debate is not so much the Lawfulness of relieving these poor *Malecontents* Protestants, but the Possibility of doing it; to me it seems wholly impracticable; and till Providence opens a Door which we do not yet see, they

are likely to endure the Fury of a *French* Power as is already noted; at least one Campaign more, if they can do that, and their Numbers encrease still in Proportion, we may hope for something from them hereafter; but at present they seem *Enfans Perdue*, the Forlorn Hope of the present War.

The Posture of the War on the Side of *Savoy*, does I confess, look with a better Face than in other Places; and as the Duke has lately recovered *Savoy* itself out of the Hands of the *French*, I know not what desperate Action may follow, but we are to judge by Probabilities; If any Body else can discern them here, I should be glad to see them; for my part I acknowledge I cannot be of that Opinion.

The Reader is desired in our last Paper, P.66. Col.1. for Lewis XI. to read Philip the Hardy.

Mercure Scandale :

O R,

ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

A Young Gentleman who had been lately abroad, sent a Complaint to the Society against two of his Fellow Beaus, who having affronted him, and being challeng'd by him refus'd to fight, but afterwards very grossly abus'd him.

The Society told the Man they would do his Master all the Justice they could, if he thought fit to let them know the Particulars.

The Man told them, that his Master was a young Gentleman, and had been at *Utrecht* to study, but having more Mind to be a Gentleman than a Scholar, qualified himself with a Sword and a Wig; and meeting two *English* Gentlemen in a certain House in *Rotterdam*, they treated him very uncivilly, which he resenting, demanded Satisfaction of them.

They being afraid to fight him, like Gentlemen, hir'd a Great Swinging *Northland* Wench, being Servant in the House, who coming in and laying Violent Hands

upon him, took him in her great beastly Clutches, and laying him cross a Bench, pull'd down his Breeches and whip'd him unmercifully.

The Society told the Man that brought the Account, *That Duelling, and Challenging to Duel are scandalous Practices, unchristian and unlawful*; and therefore they must have Censured instead of Clearing his Master; but since he had receiv'd the Correction he deserv'd, they desired him to take it as his due, and to let it do him more good, than all the pains his Honest, Worthy Father had been at, had done him; whose Family and Instruction he had foolishly Dishonoured.

The Man carried the Message back, and immediately returned, and brought his Master with him, who began to abuse the Society with ill Language; told them he was a Soldier, and offered to draw upon the Door-Keeper.

The Society seeing the Youth begin to grow

grow maddish, caus'd him to be disarm'd, and Resolv'd, That *he was fitter for a Rod than a Sword, and the Dutch-Woman had done him no wrong.*

One of the Authors of the ——— made a Complaint at the Club, and charg'd them with Partiality, in reflecting upon them, and letting others pass without due Remark, and thereupon pull'd out the Gazette, April 17, and deliver'd it to the Clerk, who read as follows:

A Colonel of *Savoy* having beaten up the *French* Quarters, advanc'd to *Trumignone*, where had been two Troops of Dragoons, who on his approach were fled, but had carried away their Horses.

The Man demanded whether they carried them on their backs, or how?

Then the Clerk read on.

Afterwards he advanc'd to *St. John de Morienne* with so much diligence, that the Enemy were oblig'd to retire, and leave every thing behind them, whereof he possess'd himself.

Here he queried, whether that might not very well be Construed to mean nothing at all; or if otherwise, every thing ought to be explained, or no-body could understand it.

The Society told them, it was but just to give the Author Notice to defend it, if he knew how; and so adjourn'd their Censure to another time.

Advertisements are taken in by *J. Matthews*, in *Pilkington-Court* in *Little Britain*.

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